

## WAR ACES

*For Victoria*

hands, were equal or nearly equal to the same number of British soldiers. Following their theory, the historians go on to point out that when one soldier became the equal of another, some people decided that voting was an easy way to tell how a fight over an issue would come out. The idea of human equality gained strength when people accepted each person's right to cast a vote that was just as important as any other person's vote.

Modern warfare has moved away from the days when soldiers with rifles were the most important part of an army. War has been mechanized until it is in large part a contest in producing machinery. In Thomas Jefferson's day, it made sense to protect "the right to keep and bear arms," so that people could overthrow a tyrannical government. Today, the private citizen cannot keep the kinds of weapons that would serve this purpose.

As the methods of warfare have changed, the cost of war has increased. For example, the War of 1812 cost the United States about \$90 million. But World War II cost the nation about \$263 billion.

**The Atomic Bomb**, used by the United States against Japan in 1945, has brought another great change into warfare. After the invention of the bomb, it seemed probable that future wars would be short and terribly destructive. Great cities could be destroyed and millions of people killed within a few hours. The only question was whether the nations of the world could change their habits fast enough to keep war from breaking out. See ATOMIC BOMB; HYDROGEN BOMB.

**Total War** is one in which a nation uses all its people, resources, and weapons. In such wars, civilians as well as military people take part in the war effort. For example, World Wars I and II were total wars in which entire populations took part. Civilians worked on such activities as civil defense and weapons manufacture, and many civilians were killed by bombs.

**Limited War** is one in which the warring nations limit the weapons they use, the targets they attack, or the areas involved. Since the invention of the atomic bomb, *limited war* has come to mean a war in which neither side uses atomic weapons. The Korean War (1950-1953) was a limited war in this sense. Only North and South Korea fought a total war. Neither Russia nor the United States used their nuclear weapons.

After World War II, several international disputes grew into wars. But fear of nuclear destruction prevented any of the wars from becoming total. These limited wars included the Vietnam War (1957-1975) and the Middle East wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973.

Is War "Normal"? Democratic countries take it for granted that peace is normal, and that war means some-

thing has gone wrong. But it is hard to say just where peace ends and war begins. Nations may be on unfriendly terms for years, building up their armies and navies, seeking allies, and trying to win control of each other's markets, without any actual clash of armed forces. It is debatable whether these countries are really at peace. They might be considered to be merely observing a rest period between wars. Many historians consider the years between World Wars I and II as a breathing spell in a single great war. PAYSON S. WILD

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**WAR ACES** are airplane pilots who shoot down five or more enemy planes during a war. Each plane downed must be confirmed by eyewitnesses or gun-camera films to count as a *victory or kill*. Pilots often lose credit for planes shot down because there are no witnesses, or because the victims crash behind enemy lines.

In **World War I** (1914-1918), Captain Eddie Rickenbacker of the United States shot down 22 German planes and four balloons. Baron Manfred von Richthofen of Germany, called the *Red Baron* or the *Red Knight*, shot down 80 planes—more than any other pilot in the war. Captain René Fonck of France was credited with 75, Major Edward Mannock of Great Britain with 73, and Colonel Billy Bishop of Canada with 72.

In **World War II** (1939-1945), air power played a greater role than in World War I. Major Richard I. Bong of the U.S. Army Air Forces shot down 40 enemy planes. Air Force Major Thomas McGuire had 38. Other leading Air Force aces included Colonel Francis Gabreski and Major Robert Johnson. U.S. Navy Commander David McCampbell shot down 34, and Major Joseph Foss of the U.S. Marine Corps had 26. Another American, Major Gregory (Pappy) Boyington, shot down 28 planes—6 as a member of the Flying Tigers and 22 as a Marine pilot (see *FLYING TIGERS*).

Major Alexander Pokryshkin of Russia shot down 59 German planes, and Wing Commander J. E. Johnson of Great Britain had 38. Major General Adolf Galland

WARS INVOLVING THE UNITED STATES		
Wars	U.S. Military Deaths	U.S. War Costs
Revolutionary War	25,324*	\$101,100,000
War of 1812	2,260	\$90,000,000
Mexican War	13,283	\$71,400,000
Civil War		
Union Forces	364,511	\$3,183,000,000
Confederate Forces	164,821	\$2,000,000,000
Spanish-American War	2,446	\$283,200,000
World War I	116,516	\$18,676,000,000
World War II	405,399	\$263,259,000,000
Korean War	54,246	\$67,386,000,000
Vietnam War	56,480	\$140,824,000,000

\*Estimate.

